The WANDERING

Young Gentlewoman's

GARLAND:

In Five PARTS.

Part I. How a 'Squire's Daughter near London, was forc'd from her Home thro' her Father's Cruelty; but thro' her tender Mother she was well educated, and cloathed in rich Array; And (when she came to understand, and found she was hated by her Father) she made a Robe of Cat-skins, in it she wandered carrying her Rich Attire and Jewels in a Bundle under her Arm.

Part II. How one Evening, coming to a Knight's Door, where she begg'd for a Night's Lodging in the Stable, which was granted her.

Part III. A very comical and pleasant Passage, which pass'd between Cat-skin and the young 'Squire the Lady's Son.

Part IV. In what manner he came to catch Cat-skin in her rich Attire, and how he fell in Love with her, and (to get his Parents Consent) went to Bed, feigned himself sick, and Cat-skin his Nurse; with an Account of their Marriage.

Part V. An Account of her Mother and her Sister's Death; and how her Father (who was worth Thousands) dress like a Beggar, went to her Gate, craved Charity, and having dutifully receiv'd him, he gave them his Riches, and all lived very happily together.

HULL: Printed and Sold in the Butchery.

The Wandering Young Gentlewoman.

PART I. Tune of, *The Wandering Lady.*

YOU Fathers and Mothers, and Children also,
Come draw near unto me and you shall soon know,
The Sense of my Ditty, and I dare to say,
The like han't been Printed this many a Day.
The Subject which to you I am to relate,
It is of a 'Squire of a large Estate;
And the first Infant his Wife did him bear,
It was a young Daughter of Beauty most fair.
He said to his Wife, had this been a Boy,
It wou'd have pleas'd me better and increas'd my Joy,
If the next be of the same sort I declare,
Of what I'm possess'd now she shall have no share.
In twelve Months after this Woman we hear,
Had another Daughter of Beauty most clear;
And when that her Husband knew 'twas a Female,
In a bitter Passion he presently fell.
Saying, since it is of the same sort as the rest,
In my Habitation it shall not be nurs'd;
Pray let it be sent into the Country,
For where I am truly this Child shall not be.
With Tears his dear Wife unto him did say,
Husband, be contented I'll send her away;
Then into the Country this Child she did send,
For to be brought up by an intimate Friend.
Altho' that her Father he hated her so,
She good Education on her did bestow;
She with a Gold Locket and Robes of the best,
This slighted young Female was commonly drest.

Now when unto Stature this Damsel was grown,
And found from her Father she had no Love shewn;
She cry'd, before I will lay under his frown,
I am determin'd to travel the World round.

PART II.

BUT now mind good People the Cream of the Jest,
In what sort of manner this Creature was dress'd;
With Cat-skins she made her a Robe I declare,
The which for her covering she daily did wear.
Her own rich Attire and Jewels beside,
Then up in a Bundle by her they were ty'd;
Then to seek her Fortune she wander'd away,
And when she had travel'd a whole Summer's Day.
In the Evening-Tide she came to a Town,
And at a Knight's Door, she there sat her down,
For to rest herself who was weary before,
This noble Knight's Lady she came to the Door.
And seeing this Creature in that sort of Dress,
This Lady unto her these Words did express;
From whence came'st thou, Girl? And what would you have,
She cry'd, a night's rest in your Stable I crave.
The Lady said to her, I'll grant thy desire,
Come into the Kitchen and sit by the Fire;
Then she thanked this Lady and went in with haste,
Where she was gaz'd on from biggest to least.
And being well warmed her hunger was great,
They gave her a Plate of good meat for to eat;
And then to an Out-house this Creature was led,
Where she with fresh Straw soon made her a Bed.
And when in the Morning the Day-light she saw,
Her rich Robes and Jewels she hid in the Straw;
And being very cold she then did retire,
To go to the Kitchen and stand by the Fire.
The Cook said, my Lady has promis'd that thou,
Shall be a Scullion for to wait on me;

What fay'ſt thou, Girl? art thou willing to abide,
With all my whole Heart, to her ſhe reply'd.
To work with her Needle ſhe could very well,
And for raiſing of Paſte few could her excell;
And being ſo handy the Cook's Heart did win,
And there ſhe was call'd by the name of Cat-ſkin.

PART III.

THIS Lady had a Son both comely and tall,
Who oftentimes uſed to be at a Ball;
A Mile out of Town, and one Evening Tide,
To ſee the Ball acted away he did ride.
Cat-ſkin ſaid to his Mother, Madam, let me,
Go after your Son, now this Ball for to ſee?
With that in a Paſſion this Lady ſhe grew,
And ſtruck her with a Ladle and broke it in two.
And being thus ſerved ſhe then got away,
And with her rich Garments herſelf did array;
Then to ſee the Ball with ſpeed did retire,
Where ſhe danced ſo rarely that all did her admire.
The Sport being done, the young Squire did ſay,
Young Lady, where do you live? tell me I pray;
Her anſwer was to him, that I will tell,
At the Sign of the broken Ladle I dwell.
She being very nimble got home firſt 'tis ſaid,
And with her Cat-ſkin Robes got herſelf array'd;
And into the Kitchen away ſhe did go,
But where ſhe had been none of them did know.
Next Night the young 'Squire himſelf to content,
To ſee the Ball acted away then he went;
She ſaid, pray let me go this Ball for to view,
She ſtruck her with a ſkimmer and broke it in two.
Then out of the Door ſhe ran full of heavineſs,
And with her rich Garments herſelf ſoon did dreſs;
For to ſee the Ball acted ſhe ran away with ſpeed,
And to ſee her dancing all wonder'd indeed.

The Ball being ended, the 'Squire then,
Said, where is it you live? She answer'd again,
Sir, because you ask me, account I will give,
At the Sign of the broken skimmer I live.

Being dark she left him and homeward did hie,
And with her Cat-skin was dress'd presently;
And into the Kitchen away then she went,
But were she had been they were all innocent.

When the 'Squire came home and found Cat-skin
He was in amaze and began for to swear, [there,
For two Nights at this Ball there has been a Lady,
The sweetest of Beauties my Eyes e'er did see.

She was the best Dancer in the whole Place,
And very much like our Cat-skin in the Face;
Had she not been dress't in that costly degree,
I should have sworn it had been Cat-skin's Body.

Next Night to see the Ball acted once more,
Then she asked his Mother to go as before?
And having a Bason of Water in her Hand,
She threw it at Cat-skin as I understand.

Shaking her wet Cloaths out of doors she did run,
And dressed herself: When this thing she had done,
To see the Ball acted she then went her ways,
To see her fine Dancing all gave her the Praise.

And having concluded this 'Squire he,
Said, from whence do you come? Pray Lady tell me,
Her answer was Sir, You shall know the same,
From the Sign of the Bason of Water I came.

Then homeward she hurried as fast as could be,
This young 'Squire then was resolved to see,
Whereto she belong'd, then follow'd Cat-skin,
Into an old Straw-house he saw her creep in.

He said, O brave Cat-skin, I find it is thee,
Who these three Nights has so charmed me;
Thou art the sweetest Creature my Eyes e'er beheld,
With Joy and Content now my Heart it is fill'd.

Thou art our Cook's Scullion, but so I have Life,
Grant me but thy Love, I'll make thee my Wife;
And you shall have Maids to be at your call,
Sir, that cannot be, I've no Portion at all.
Thy Beauty's a Portion, my Joy and my Dear,
I prize it far better than thousands a Year;
To have my friends consent, I'll play them a Trick,
I'll go to my Bed and I'll feign myself sick.
There's none shall attend me but thee I confess,
So one Day or other in thy rich dress,
Thou shalt be dress'd, and when my Parents come nigh,
I'll tell them 'tis for thee that sick I do lie.

PART IV.

HAving thus consulted, this Couple parted,
Next Day this young 'Squire he took to his Bed,
When his dear Parents this Thing perceiv'd,
For fear of his Death they were heartily griev'd.
To attend him they sent for a Nurse presently,
He said, none but Cat-skin my Nurse now shall be;
His Parents said, No, no. He said, but she shall,
Or else I'll have none to Nurse me at all.
His Parents both wonder'd to hear him say thus,
That no one but Cat-skin must then be his Nurse;
So then his dear Parents, their Son to content,
Up to his Chamber poor Cat-skin they sent.
Sweet Cordials and other rich Things were prepar'd,
Which between this Couple were equally shar'd;
And when alone in each other's Arms,
Enjoy'd one another in Love's pleasant Charms.
At length one Day poor Cat-skin, 'tis said,
In her rich Attire then was she array'd;
And when that his Mother the Chamber drew near,
Then much like a Goddess Cat-skin did appear.
Which caus'd her to startle, and thus he did say,
What young Lady is this, Son tell me I pray;

He said, why 'tis Cat-skin, for whom I sick lie,
And without I have her, I speedily die.
His Mother ran down to the old Knight,
Who ran up to see this amazing great Sight!
He said, is this Cat-skin we held so in scorn?
I ne'er saw a finer Dame since I was born.
The old Knight said to her I pray tell me,
From whence you did come and of what Family,
Then who was her Parents she gave them to know,
And what was the Cause of her wandering so.
The young 'Squire cry'd, if you will save my Life,
Pray grant this young Creature she may be my Wife:
His Father reply'd, thy Life for to save,
If you are agreed, my Consent you shall have.
Next Day with great Triumph and Joy as we hear,
There came many Coaches, which came far and near,
Then much like a Goddess dress't in rich Array,
Cat-skin to the 'Squire was married that Day.
For several Days this great Wedding did last,
There was a topping and gallant rich Guest,
And for Joy the Bells rang all over the Town,
And Bottles of Canary trowl'd merrily round.
When Cat-skin was married, her fame far did raise,
To see her modest Carriage all gave her the praise
Thus her charming Beauty the 'Squire did win,
And who lives so great now as he and Cat-skin.

PART V.

NOW in the fifth part I'll endeavour to show,
How things with her Parents and Sister did go;
Her Mother and Sister of Life are bereft,
And now all alone the 'Squire is left.
And hearing his Daughter was married so brave,
He said in my Noddle a Fancy I have,
Dress't up like a poor Man, a Journey I'll make,
And see if on me some pity she'll take.

Being dreſs like a Beggar, he went to the Gate,
Where ſtood his Daughter, who appear'd very great;
He cry'd, noble Lady, a poor Man I be,
And I am now forc'd to beg your Charity.

With a bluſh ſhe aſk'd him from whence he came,
With that he told her, and gave her his Name;
She cry'd, I'm your Daughter that you ſlighted ſo,
Yet nevertheleſs to you ſome kindneſs I'll ſhew.

Through Mercy the Lord has provided for me,
Pray Father come in and ſit down by me;
Then the beſt Proviſion the Houſe could afford,
For to make him welcome was ſet on the board.

She ſaid, you are welcome, feed heartily I pray,
And if you are willing with me you ſhall ſtay,
So long as you live: Then he made this reply,
I only am come now thy Love for to try.

Thro' Mercy, my Child, I am rich and not poor,
I have Gold and Silver, enough and in Store;
And for this Love which at thy Hand I have found,
For a Portion I'll give thee three thouſand Pounds.

So within a few Days after, as we underſtand,
This Man he went home and ſold off his Land:
And ten thouſand Pounds to his Daughter did give,
And now altogether in Love they do live.

FINIS.